

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Celebrate the Holidays in California State Parks

California State Parks are gearing up for the holidays. A number of parks will have celebrations that reflect the state's rich heritage. It's a perfect time to visit a state park and enjoy the holidays with friends and family.

CHRISTMAS IN THE ADOBES

Monterey State Historic Park in downtown Monterey gives visitors the opportunity to walk through historic adobes decorated for the holidays. Docents in period dress provide stories and seasonal refreshments from 5 PM until 9 PM, December 9th and 11th. Tickets are on sale at the Cooper Store, 525 Polk Street at Alvarado. For information call (831) 649-7120

AN EMIGRANT CHRISTMAS

Sutter's Fort State Historic Park will celebrate "Demonstration Day: A Simple Emigrant Christmas" on Saturday, December 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Park is located at 2701 "L" Street in midtown Sacramento. Visitors will step back in time to holidays past with activities such as stringing popcorn and cranberries, candle dipping and crafting paper cut-out ornaments. Sutter's Fort was one of California's early gathering places where different cultures came together to share differing holiday traditions, many of which are still celebrated today. For more information call (916) 445-4422 or on-line www.parks.ca.gov/suttersfort

AN OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS

Columbia State Historic Park, three miles north of Sonora off Highway 49, hosts a variety of Christmas-themed events. Through December 10, the City Hotel hosts the annual Victorian Feast at 6:30 p.m. each evening, including Christmas carols, a five-course meal and fine wines. On December 3 and 4 docents lead Lamp Light Tours whereby participants will be led by kerosene lanterns down the streets of the park to visit various vignettes in a walking play written by a Sonora High School student who also volunteers at the park. On the weekends of December 11 and 12 and 18 and 19 docents will be out in costume for the annual A Miner's Christmas – featuring roasted chestnuts, children's crafts and even a glimpse of Father Christmas. On December 11 from 5 to 8 p.m. the Chamber of Commerce sponsors the Merry Merchants – and on December 12 the Las Posadas Nativity Procession. Other happenings in the park include the Equestrian Parade and Toy Drive on December 12 and candy cane making at Nelson's Candy Kitchen through December 19. Businesses are generally open from 10 a.m.

to 4 p.m. each day and admission to the park is free. For more information visit the Chamber of Commerce website at www.columbiacalifornia.com – the City Hotel website www.cityhotel.com – and the California State Parks website at www.parks.ca.gov/columbia or call the park office at (209) 588-9128.

HOLIDAYS ON THE RANCH

Wilder Ranch State Park, two miles north of Santa Cruz on Highway 1, celebrates “Holidays on the Ranch,” a special living history day on Saturday, December 18, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visitors will be able to experience holiday activities including candle making, wreath making, cookie decorating, holiday crafts, hot spiced apple cider, baked good, wagon rides and more. For more information, call the Wilder Ranch Interpretive Center at (831) 426-0505.

CHRISTMAS AT THE RANCH

Anderson Marsh State Historic Park, between Lower Lake and Clear Lake on Highway 53, features Christmas at the Ranch on December 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association puts together the event that features a Victorian Christmas in the historic Ranch House with music performed by local musicians. The event is free with donations accepted. For more information call (707) 995-2658 or info@andersonmarsh.org

OLD TIME HOLIDAY IN THE PARK

Shasta State Historic Park, six miles west of Redding on Highway 299, features a free “Old Time Holiday in the Park” on December 4 and 5, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The park phone number is (530) 243-8194.

NEW YEARS CELEBRATION

Weaverville Joss House, 50 miles west of Redding on Highway 299, features a Chinese New Year’s celebration on February 2 beginning at 11 a.m. to celebrate the “Year of the Rabbit”. The event is free. The park phone number is (530) 623-5284.

PIONEER CHRISTMAS PARTY

William B. Ide Adobe State Historic Park, two miles northeast of Red Bluff on Adobe Road, celebrates the Pioneer Christmas Party on December 18. The event emphasizes the early holiday traditions of the north valley. The park phone number is (530) 529-8599.

VICTORIAN HOLIDAY TEA PARTY

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, San Diego Avenue and Twiggs Street in San Diego, will feature a Victorian holiday tea party with performance – “The Gracious Mrs. Robinson will be Receiving Her Guests” - at the park’s Cosmopolitan Hotel & Restaurant on the Plaza at 2660 Calhoun Street at 4 p.m. on December 10, 11, 17, 18, 28, 29 and 30. The 90-minute party includes holiday fare food and absurd entertainment by a cast of Victorian

eccentrics. Guests are welcome to attend in attire of the late 19th century. The cost is \$40 for adults and \$18 for children six to 16. For reservations call (619) 297-1874.

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LIGHTS ON THE LAKE

Lake Perris State Recreation Area, hidden in the hills between the cities of Perris and Moreno Valley, presents its 12th annual Lights on the Lake - Holiday Boat Parade, on December 11. Boats of all shapes and sizes, from canoes to power boats, are decorated with lights and festive figures. From their beach-side viewpoints, visitors watch the boats glide over the lake as the sun sets. Admission to the park is free with an unopened toy (\$10 value or more). The event time is from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. For information or to register for boat participation, call 951 / 940-5600.

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